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[DNRP](#) > [SWD](#) > [Education & Schools Assistance](#) > [Class Act Newsletter](#) > Current Issue



King County
Department of Natural Resources and Parks
Solid Waste Division

Class Act

School Recycling Program Newsletter — February 2007

Slugs, Bugs, and Dirty Toilets Presentations End... New Options Available



Gail Gensler during a Slugs, Bugs, and Dirty Toilets hazardous waste school presentations.

are still available to teachers.

As of January 2007, the Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County (LHWMP) discontinued its Slugs, Bugs, and Dirty Toilets hazardous waste school presentations due to a change in focus and direction of the LHWMP. Gail Gensler and Julia Berg, whom many of you have scheduled in the past as speakers for your students, will shift their efforts to a different audience: pregnant women and adults who work with very young children. They will also be working to effect policy change at the district, local, and county levels to improve the health of young children, the population most vulnerable to long-term or permanent damage from exposure to environmental pollutants.

The following options for bringing household hazardous waste issues into the classroom

1. Teach the topic yourself. Many popular lesson materials are [online](#). [Borrow](#) supplemental lesson materials such as pre-packaged classroom sets of household products - emptied, cleaned, sealed and ready for classroom use. For more information, contact [Gail Gensler](#) at 206-263-3082.

2. Schedule a class presentation with follow-up project. Teachers choosing this option commit to going well beyond a one-time guest presentation. LHWMP provides support staff and funding to assist with projects. Send [email](#) or call Erin McGourty at 206-583-0655.

3. Attend a teacher workshop.



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In this issue

- Schools in the Cities of Redmond and Kirkland Can Now Recycle Food!
- Green Team Project News
- Visit the Website
- King County Taking the Lead on Climate Change
- Innovative Resource Center Opens at Big Picture High School in Burien
- Free Classroom Presentations on Biosolids and Other Topics
- Summer Program for K-8 Science Teachers

Visit the Website

For more information about the King County Solid Waste Division School Programs, visit us on the [web](#). Newly posted under elementary school activity pages is A Year of Reuse Activities.

King County Taking the Lead on Climate Change

King County is pursuing aggressive strategies to reduce global warming. Executive Ron Sims has called for a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions to 80 percent below current levels by 2050. Strategies include combating sprawl and building healthier communities, getting more people onto leaner, greener busses, turning waste into energy, and developing a clean energy future.

Get more information on the [Sims Global](#)

Teachers choosing this option attend a workshop and commit to teaching hazardous waste lessons with their students. LHWMP provides support staff and funding to assist with follow-up projects. Send [email](#) or call Erin McGourty at 206-583-0655.

Julia Berg and Gail Gensler will miss working directly with your students and thank you for the strong support you have given them over the last fifteen years. Although sad to discontinue their classroom visits, they are excited about their new work.



Schools in the Cities of Redmond and Kirkland Can Now Recycle Food!

What do pizza crusts, milk cartons, half-eaten cheeseburgers, napkins and apple cores have in common? All these items can be collected for composting in City of Kirkland and City of Redmond schools!

As of this year, schools inside the city limits of Kirkland or Redmond can sign up for food waste collection through their garbage/recycling service at no additional cost. All food waste, including meat and cheese, is acceptable. Food soiled paper such as pizza boxes, milk cartons, napkins and paper cups are also included in this program.

Participating schools are provided with two outdoor carts lined with a biodegradable bag to keep them clean. Carts are picked up twice a week by Waste Management trucks and transported to Cedar Grove, a local composting facility.

Within eight weeks, the food and food-soiled paper are turned into a valuable soil amendment and ready for landscaping. Who would think that leftover food scraps could be so valuable!

For assistance with setting up food waste recycling, contact Sam Wilder with the City of Kirkland, City of Redmond and the King County Green Schools Program at 206-763-0739. Schools outside of these cities interested in food waste collection or on-site composting can contact the King County Green Schools Program at 206-296-8457 for information and assistance.

Warming Initiative.

Subscribe to the new King County online global warming newsletter for information and updates. Send an [email](#) with the word "subscribe" in the subject line.

Find [links](#) to lesson plans and resources for students about global warming.

Innovative Resource Center Opens at Big Picture High School in Burien

ReUse Resources, a place for teachers and community programs to get low-cost supplies and share ideas, and for businesses to find a home for surplus materials, opened its doors in January at the Big Picture High School in Burien. Members of ReuseResources can access a vast array of low-cost and free materials to support hands-on learning in their classrooms. Membership is open to teachers or community organizations that serve pre-K to 12 students. The cost is \$15 for an introductory membership. Find more information at reuseresources.org or by calling 206-683-4023.

Free Classroom Presentations on Biosolids and Other Topics

The [Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust](#) offers four programs for students in grades 5-10: Forests and Fins (forest ecology), Forests on the Edge (land use issues), Savvy about Soil, Wise about Water (connections among healthy soil, water and trees) and Greening Up the Greenway (biosolids use).

Greening Up the Greenway teaches students about the benefits of recycling human waste and provides a great extension to King County's EcoConnections [workshops](#).

Summer Program for K-8 Science Teachers

The *Summer Institute in Life Science* (SILS) is a three-four week hands-on program for teaching K-8 teachers how to bring investigative science into their classrooms. Teachers from schools serving predominantly low income and disadvantaged student populations are given preference. All instructional costs



Green Team Project News

Student Green Teams around the county are already making a difference this year in King County's environment. Many classrooms are actively involved in and educating their peers about recycling, composting food waste, using worm bins, cleaning up

their campus, and taking care of school grounds and gardens. Here are a few highlights. If you'd like to see your Green Team project in the next issue of the Class Act, please [send us](#) photos and descriptions.

Cascade Ridge Elementary in Issaquah

The student council is educating the student body about the school recycling program. The council has planned a recycling challenge to see which classroom and/or grade level can do the best job of recycling.

West Mercer Elementary on Mercer Island

Nancy Burrill's first graders are working with their fourth grade buddy team to keep the flowerbeds at the front of the school neat and tidy. The fourth grade class weeds the courtyard as well.

Discovery Elementary in Sammamish

Tasha Kirby's classroom Green Team has grown into a club that includes the whole school. Students from all grade levels (1-5) meet twice a month. They have started an Adopt-A-Classroom program to remind students how and what to recycle. The whole school is also participating in the Wal-Mart Kids Recycling Program to collect and recycle plastic grocery bags.

Syre Elementary in Shoreline

The third and sixth graders, with assistance from Green Team advisor Melissa Whitney, are working together to recycle in their building. Working as buddies, the students have made posters on what can be recycled. The posters will be hung in each classroom and at the recycling stations.

Hollywood Hill Elementary in Northshore

Beth Robinson is using her two worm bins to enhance her third grade curriculum again this year. The students are planning to harvest the soil in the spring and sell it at the Woodinville Spring Garden Fair.

Clark Elementary in Issaquah

Liza Rickey's students are creating a native plant garden on campus. They have developed a plan and researched appropriate plants for their site. Planting will begin in the spring.

Pine Lake Middle School in Issaquah

The Spirit Students, with direction from advisor Michael Jackson, will be teaching their peers and staff about their school recycling improvements. The Spirit Students will train captains from each homeroom on what, why, and how to recycle. The captains will then teach their fellow students.

are covered by the program and teachers receive seven credits BIOL 491. SILS participants learn to ask testable questions, design experiments, explore content-rich topics (such as environmental connections, biodiversity, human body systems etc.), and develop an inquiry curriculum unit to teach during the following school year. Apply [on-line](#) or contact [Helen Buttemer](#). Applications are due March 27, 2007

Garfield High School in Seattle

Garfield's Earth Service Corps, led by students Willa Zhou and Sophie Forman, engages students in numerous eco-conscious activities. Projects have included Bike-to-School Day and a community clean-up to pick up litter in the area surrounding the school grounds. Approximately 30 students meet weekly to select a project each month. They recently received a grant from Seattle Public Utilities and the YMCA Earth Service Corps to purchase more recycling bins and conduct a schoolwide education campaign.

Secondary Academy for Success in Northshore

In addition to its regular volunteer work at the 21 Acres Farm, the Green Team members at the Secondary Academy for Success have been educating themselves about recycling by touring the Cascade Recycling Facility and then putting on a skit about recycling at an all-school assembly. They also organized a viewing of An Inconvenient Truth. Afterwards they assessed the effectiveness of the school recycling program and set goals for improving it



King County Solid Waste Division's School Recycling Program Newsletter

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